LIBRARY

Hetton Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR 1948.

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b2942589x

Hetton Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring Urban District and Medical Superintendent of the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia.

Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance
Home Nursing
Domestic Helps
Vaccination
Immunisation against Diphtheria
Health Visitors
Tuberculosis
Child Welfare and Maternity
School Medical
Venereal Diseases
Welfare of the aged
Welfare of the blind

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—4527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1948—18,660.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books—5,103.

Rateable Value—£63,747.

Sum represented by a penny rate——£227.27.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General (for outward and inward transfers) during 1948 was 355 as compared with 436 for 1947.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	343	168	175	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated populat'n 19.02
	Illegitimate	12	4	8	

The Registrar General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 17.9 for 1948.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births, (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1948, compared with the years 1939-1947.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1939	355	183	172	18.34	153
1940	328	160	160	17.53	98
1941	319	157	162	17.53	109
1942	367	177	190	20.80	170
1943	339	173	166	13.62	127
1944	415	213	202	23.13	237
1945	377	201	176	20.65	185
1946	365	176	189	19.24	171
1947	436	229	207	23.04	215
1948	355	172	183	19.02	148

Still Births—During 1948 there were 11 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	Legitimate	11	5	6	giving a Rate of 30.05 per 1000 total (live & still births) births
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.589 in the district as compared with 0.42 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 207 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 121 males and 86 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes, and at all ages was 11.09, the population being estimated at 18,660. That for England and Wales was 10.8

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1948 there were 154 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 86 males and 68 females. Of these 2 males and 1 female did not normally reside in the area, therefore, 84 males and 67 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 37 males and 19 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 207, being 121 males and 86 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1948, 20 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 9.66 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 56 residents who died outside the district, 4 died in a private house, 1 in the Yard Seam, The Colliery, Haswell, and 1 in Smiths Lane (passenger in Public Service Vehicle), Bradford.

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	21
Children's Hospital, Sunderland ...	2
Heath House, Houghton-le-Spirng ...	3
General Hospital, Sunderland ...	1
Leeholme, Easington	1
Princess Mary Maternity Hosp., Newcastle	2
Relton Hospital, Chester-le-Street ...	9
Winterton House, Sedgefield	4
Oaklands, Bishop Auckland ...	2
Ryhope General Hospital, Sunderland ...	1
Hollywood Hall Sanatorium, Weardale ...	1
37 Crossgate, Durham	2
Prudhoe & Monkton Hospital, Prudhoe ...	1

No resident in the district died in the Rainton Bridge Hospital, therefore of the total 207 deaths of residents, 56, or 27.05 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list).

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis but one from other pueperal causes.

The following Comparative Figures are available for England and Wales:

Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.13
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from Other Puerperal Causes	0.73
Notifications Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia per 1000 total births (live and still)	
England and Wales	6.89
Hetton Urban District	2.73

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

18 children died during 1948 before attaining the age of one year, being 9 legitimate males, 7 legitimate females, and 2 illegitimate males, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 50.7 per 1000 live births.

During 1947, 16 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1939-48.

	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1939 ...	36.3	... 37.0	... —
1940 ...	80.9	... 76.1	... 250.0
1941 ...	59.00	... 58.64	... 83.33
1942 ...	49.05	... 50.70	... —
1943 ...	62.21	... 58.61	... 133.33
1944 ...	62.65	... 60.45	... 111.11
1945 ...	45.09	... 41.09	... 166.66
1946 ...	38.35	... 40.34	... —
1947 ...	36.69	... 35.29	... 90.90
1948 ...	50.7	... 46.65	... 166.66

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1948 was 34.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows:

Easington Lane	5598
Hetton	5094
Hetton Downs	5841
Rainton and Moorsley	2127
	18,660

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is:

Easington Lane	0.89
Hetton	0.79
Hetton Downs	0.86
Rainton and Moorsley	1.88

Of the 18 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was in 7 cases due to prematurity and debility, giving a percentage of 38.89 due to this cause. Four or 22.22 per cent. of the total deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

The following table shows in detail the number and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1948 and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz.— 7 under one week, 1 between 1 and 2 weeks, 0 between 2 and 3 weeks, 0 between 3 and 4 weeks, 4 between 1 and 3 months, 5 between 3 months and 6 months, 1 between 6 months and 9 months, and 0 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 18.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 207, 8.69 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 38.89 per cent. were under one week.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'nths	3 months and under 6 m'nths	6 months and under 9 m'nths	9 months and under 12 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes { Certified ...	7	1	...	...	8	4	5	1	...	10
All Causes { Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Meningitis	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	2
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Congenital Malf'mat'ns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	5	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
	7	1	...	...	8	4	5	1	...	10

Nett Live Births—	Legitimate		Illegitimate		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Corrected as per Registrar General ...	168	175	4	8	= 355
Nett Deaths	9	7	2	0	= 18

During 1948 there were 181 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, 6 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 7 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, 4 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest, and 9 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e., Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Easington Lane	17	5	11	24	57
Hetton	14	18	19	21	72
Hetton Downs	14	12	10	11	47
Rainton & M'rsley	13	7	6	5	31
Totals	58	42	46	61	207

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years	75 years & over.	Total.
Easington Lane	5	...	...	...	5	6	14	17	10	57
Hetton	4	1	...	...	1	5	15	20	26	72
Hetton Downs	5	...	...	3	...	5	8	15	11	47
Rainton and Moorsley	4	1	...	...	...	1	8	9	8	31
Total	18	2	..	3	6	17	45	61	55	207

During the year under consideration there was 1 death from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population from this cause of 0.05.

There was 1 death from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), giving a death rate of 2.81 per 1000 live births compared with 3.3 for England and Wales.

In 1947 there were 3 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, equivalent to a death rate of 0.15 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table:

No. of Deaths in Hetton Urban District

Population 1948—18,660.

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs	Total
1939	202	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	1	8
1940	230	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1941	210	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	7
1942	197	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
1943	212	0	0	2	0	2	3	2	3	12
1944	178	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7
1945	192	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	8
1946	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1947	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
1948	207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales

Hn—Hetton Urban District; EW—England and Wales.

All Causes		Typhoid & Paratyph'd Fevers		Smallpox		Measles		Scarlet Fev.		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Influenza	
Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW	Hn	EW
12.03	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.10	0.05	0.15	0.21
14.05	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.00	0.32
11.54	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0 00	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.19
11.16	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.09
12.08	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.03	0.17	0.03	0.11	0.37
9.92	11.6	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.12
10.52	11.4	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.03
10.22	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.15
11.68	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.09
11.09	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1948.

	Causes of Death.	Male	Female
All Causes		121	86
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9.	Influenza	—	—
10.	Measles	—	—
11.	Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)	1	—
	Uterus (Female)	—	6
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	2
16.	Cancer, all other sites	10	8
17.	Diabetes	—	3
18.	Intra Cranial Vasular Lesions	16	9
19.	Heart Disease	32	25
20.	Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	1
21.	Bronchitis	11	9
22.	Pneumonia	10	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	4	2
28.	Nephritis	1	—
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	4	2
32.	Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	2	2
33.	Suicide	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	—	—
35.	Other violent causes	4	2
36.	All other causes	11	5

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1948 for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000) compared with Hetton-le-Hole.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain infectious diseases for the year 1948. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Hetton Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS—					
Live	17.9	20.0	19.2	20.1	19.02
Still	0.42	0.52	0.43	0.39	0.589
DEATHS—					
All Causes	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6	11.09
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0 00	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0 02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	34	39	32	31	50.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 yrs. age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4	2.81
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.11
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	6.38
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	0.59
Diphtheria	0 08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.32
Erysipelas	0 21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.86
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	13.45
Pneumonia.	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	3.21
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
(a) NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal Fever	6.89	8 90	4.71	0.61	1.54
Puerperal Pyrexia				7.34	

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

	No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
E. & W.	0.11	0.05	0.13	0.73
Hetton U.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.73

ABORTION: Mortality per million Women aged 15-45 England and Wales:

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
9	4

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1948, being equivalent to a death rate per 1000 population of .38 from the pulmonary form and .05 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1939	11	Not available	.57	2	Not available	.14
1940	13	Not available	.70	3	Not available	.16
1941	7	.601	.38	0	.127	.00
1942	10	Not available	.56	3	Not available	.17
1943	9	.557	.51	4	.111	.22
1944	9	.524	.50	2	.103	.11
1945	6	.519	.32	1	.100	.05
1946	13	Not available	.68	1	Not available	.05
1947	11	.470	.58	3	.079	.15
1948	7	.440	.38	1	.067	.05

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area. 57 persons, being 32 males and 25 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 27.53 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.05 per 1000 population.

Unfortunately heart disease is very frequently caused by rheumatism or St. Vitus dance, whilst in other cases the heart may be damaged following pneumonia. The importance of care and supervision after these illnesses cannot be sufficiently stressed.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			M	F	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1939	202	42	24	18	10.5	2.18	20.79
1940	230	42	20	22	12.33	2.25	18.26
1941	210	43	20	23	11.55	2.31	20.48
1942	197	33	19	14	11.16	1.87	16.77
1943	212	42	20	22	12.08	2.4	19.81
1944	178	34	20	14	9.92	1.89	17.1
1945	192	41	24	17	10.52	2 24	21.35
1946	194	56	27	29	10.22	2 95	28 86
1947	221	63	31	32	11.68	3.32	28.50
1948	207	57	32	25	11.09	3.05	27.53

Cancer.

34 deaths—being 15 males and 19 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 16.43 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 1.82 per 1000 population, compared with 1.85 for England and Wales.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1939—1948.

Year	Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male	Female	Total	
1939 ...	13 ...	16 ...	29	1.50
1940 ...	15 ...	17 ...	32	1.71
1941 ...	14 ...	11 ...	25	1.37
1942 ...	14 ...	13 ...	27	1.53
1943 ...	11 ...	19 ...	30	1.70
1944 ...	12 ...	10 ...	22	1.22
1945 ...	15 ...	18 ...	33	1.80
1946 ...	13 ...	9 ...	22	1.15
1947 ...	17 ...	11 ...	28	1.47
1948 ...	15 ...	19 ...	34	1.82

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1948 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site	Males—Ages
Colon—	88
Stomach—	65, 76, 69
Rectum—	72
Pancreas—	57, 59
Rodent Ulcer of Back—	64
Left Foot—	77
Skull—	67
Ventriculi—	49
Ear—	75
Intestines—	71
Jaw—	67
Mediastinum—	45

Site.	Females—Ages.
Stomach—	64
Breast—	66, 62
Lung—	66, 44
Uterus—	57, 57, 52, 45, 44
Uterus (Vertebrae)—	51
Larynx—	66, 71
Ventriculi—	67, 76
Vertebrae—	7
Oesophagus—	52
Gall Bladder—	76
Caecum—	72

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(see commencement of this report.)

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July, 1948, made a certain difference in the administration of Health Services in County Districts. The chief points so far as this area is concerned are the transfer of (a) the Isolation Hospital to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, (b) the ambulance service to the County Council as the Local Health Authority, (c) the entire responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. The County Council are also now responsible for the provision of nursing in the home. District nurses are employed by the County Council, but there is a very close liaison between the old County Nursing Association and the County Council in providing this service.

Ambulance Facilities.

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton-le-Spring, West Rainton, and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. Despite minor initial difficulties the Service has worked comparatively smoothly. One of the major difficulties has been the gross deterioration of many of the vehicles which the County took over and which from the beginning were unroadworthy and entirely incapable of being made so at anything like a reasonable cost, thus reducing the number available throughout the County considerably below that originally anticipated and throwing more work on those which could be used. Despite this the number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month. The increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation of children under five years of age has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1st January, 1946, and from that date the work was done under the auspices of the County District Councils, the County Council paying the cost thereof. The County District Councils remained responsible for the treatment of the 5-15 years group until 5th July, 1948, when that also passed to the County Council.

Whilst appreciating that this change was necessary we feel that some of the local enthusiasm has been lost and that there is probably increased apathy on the part of the public who know that diphtheria is not so common as ten years ago and that deaths therefrom are not so numerous. This can be maintained only by having a large number, preferably at least 75 per cent., of the children under 15 years properly protected. Statistics are no longer available to the County or County District Councils as to the total number treated, since the general practitioners who are doing a large part of the work which they feel is outside their contract as family doctors, are receiving no payment for the work and are not submitting returns, owing to there being no agreement as to fees with the Ministry of Health.

A considerable amount of periodical propaganda is necessary, more especially in the case of school children who have not been previously treated, and emphasising the importance of a reinforcing dose where a child has had previous treatment.

Vaccination has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through its "Public Vaccinators." Previous to 5th July, 1948, there was an exact record of the work done. Vaccination is no longer compulsory and, as in the case of diphtheria immunisation for similar reasons, the family doctors are making no returns and it is quite impossible to gauge the total numbers being protected against smallpox and the effect of making vaccination voluntary on the vaccinal condition of the population of the country.

Nursing in the Home.

This is now available to all who are in need and the Nurses who served this area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association have continued in their work.

Maternity and Midwifery.

The Nurses formerly employed by the County Council for this work are continuing with same, although perhaps more frequently as Maternity nurses than Midwives than formerly, since these services and that of the medical practitioner is now free. It is the intention of the National Health Service Act that there should be local panels of medical practitioners with special experience in midwifery who should do this work, but in this area the family doctors have all already had a very considerable experience over many years.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

As formerly these continue to be administered by the County Council, the centre remaining at Hetton. Steps are being taken to separate the care of the Mothers from that of the Children and the Assistant County Child Welfare Medical Officers are being diverted according to their inclinations, to the type of work they prefer doing——children or mothers—aiming at specialisation in one of these branches.

School Medical Clinics.

These are as formerly all operated by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Clinics

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Domestic Helps.

Women who are suitable and willing are employed by the County Council as domestic helps who are sent out to give domestic assistance when a request for same is made and proved to be necessary in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged. Charge for this assistance is based on income and, if necessary, may be free. Requests for such assistance may be made to the County Medical Officer either direct or through the local Health Department.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1948 some 488 cases of infectious diseases, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows a decrease on the figure for 1947—which was 510. There were 251 cases of measles and 11 whooping cough, as compared with 338 measles and 66 whooping cough in 1947.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 119 cases of Scarlet Fever in the district compared with 18 in 1947. Of these 88 were isolated in hospital.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The case incidence for the district is 6.38 per 1000 population, and that for England and Wales being 1.73.

The case incidence for the various wards is 5.69 Hetton, 4.79 Hetton Downs, 10.18 Easington Lane, and 2.35 for Moorsley and Rainton, each per 1000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were 6 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1948 as compared with no cases in 1947. All cases were removed to hospital. Anti-toxin is available by day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Hetton House, Hetton-le-hole.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.32 as compared with 0.08 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the wards was: Hetton nil, Hetton Downs .51, Easington Lane .54, Moorsley and Rainton nil.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

None of the 6 cases of diphtheria had been previously immunised.

During 1948, 196 children under 5 years of age and 17 between 5 and 15 years were immunised and 26 were given a reinforcing injection.

At the end of 1948 approximately 545 or 33.03 per cent. of the child population under 5 years and 2,189 or 72.65 per cent. of those between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised.

It is extremely desirable that 75 per cent. of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under 5 years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics, but parents still have the option of having their children who are under 5 immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

Influenza.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on the whole of a mild character. No deaths were certified as being due to this cause.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1948. In 1948 there were 251 cases of measles and 11 cases of whooping cough notified as against 338 measles and 66 whooping cough in 1947.

During the year no deaths were ascribed to whooping cough or to measles.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two-yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection has been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children, since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms: bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school, especially during the third week after exposure, if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed an increase there being 60 cases notified during 1948, as against 31 in 1947. The number of cases of erysipelas notified showed an increase, there being 16 cases notified in 1948 as against 13 in 1947. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

There were 13 deaths directly due to pneumonia and some in which it was a contributory cause.

Infantile Paralysis.

During the year 1948 2 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area. One later proved to be a wrong diagnosis, so that the area was practically free from any case of infantile paralysis during 1948.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during year 1948.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1948.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	119	88	...
Diphtheria	6	6	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	...
Pneumonia	60	...	13
Erysipelas	16	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	1	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	2	1	...
Dysentry	...	...	...
Measles	251	...	...
Whooping Cough	11	...	...
Totals	469	96	13

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1948—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified at Ages—Years													Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total	Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington L.	M'sley & R'ton		Total		
Scarlet Fever	1	1	4	19	11	40	32	8	9	2	1	...	119	29	28	57	5	...	119	88	6.38
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	3	3	...	...	6	6	0.32
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	0.05
Pneumonia	8	5	2	2	1	6	2	1	11	6	7	9	60	18	17	24	1	...	60	...	3.22
Erysipelas	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	4	1	9	2	16	8	2	6	...	...	16	...	0.86
Pulmonary Tuberculosis { *Male* ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1		2	1	...	2	7	2	2	3	...	...	7	...	0.38
Pulmonary Tuberculosis { *Female* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	1	...	9	4	...	4	1	...	9	...	0.48
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis { *Male* ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	0.10
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis { *Female* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	0.05
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.05
Acute Encephlitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomylitis ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	..	..	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	0.11
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	..	...	2	...	...	2	1	0.11
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	.	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	15	42	42	40	42	67	2	1	..	...	.	...	251	111	40	79	21	...	251	...	13.45
Whooping Cough ...	...	4	2	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	..	...	11	2	4	3	2	...	11	...	0.59
Totals	25	53	51	53	55	124	38	12	35	10	19	13	488	177	98	183	30	...	488	96	26.15

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterley Returns. Those for Hetton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop'lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Hetton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards			
				Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	Moorsley & Rainton
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.73	1.82	0.59	5.69	4.79	10.18	2.35
Diphtheria ...	0.08	0.09	0.32	0.00	0.51	0.54	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.21	0.21	0.86	1.57	0.34	1.07	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.73	0.60	3.21	3.53	2.91	4.29	0.47
Measles ...	9.34	8.84	13.45	21.79	6.85	14.11	9.87
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.03	0.02	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.31	0.59	0.39	0.68	0.54	0.94

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1948 under the Public Health Act (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1948.

16 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 7 males and 9 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 2 males and 1 female. In 1947 there were 19 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 9 males and 10 females, and 7 cases of non-pulmonary forms, being 2 males and 5 females, notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1948 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hetton ...	2	4	2	1	9
Hetton Downs	2	—	—	—	2
Eas. Lane ...	3	4	—	—	7
Moorsley & Rainton		1	—	—	1
Totals ...	7	9	2	1	19

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3 ,, ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ,, ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ,, ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35 ,, ...	2	7	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
45—65 ,, ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	7	9	2	1	4	3	1	—

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1939-1948 inclusive.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Fulmonary Tuberculosis			Total All Forms
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1939 ...	5	5	10	3	1	4	14
1940 ...	7	7	14	3	6	9	23
1941 ...	11	10	21	8	4	12	33
1942 ...	8	5	13	3	5	8	21
1943 ...	12	9	21	5	8	13	34
1944 ...	6	9	15	4	6	10	25
1945 ...	9	4	13	3	2	5	18
1946 ...	12	14	26	4	3	7	33
1947 ...	9	10	19	2	5	7	26
1948 ...	7	9	16	2	1	3	19

Occupation.

Amongst the non-pulmonary cases 1 was of school age, 1 under school age and 1 housewife.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 2 were of school age, 1 nurse, 4 housewives, 1 labourer, 2 shop assistants, and 6 occupation unknown.

Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

2 glands of neck, 1 abdomen.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

Housing and Tuberculosis.

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Hetton Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

In many areas of the country a marked increase has been noticed in the cases of tuberculosis in children comparing the years 1938 and 1948, but the reverse is the position here. There has been an explanation of the increase given in various instances, ascribing it to overcrowding and bad housing conditions.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Urban District was supplied during 1948 with water from four sources, the principal source of supply being the Council's water undertaking, this normally serving the whole of the Hetton Downs, Hetton and Easington Lane Wards. Delivery from the main source—Eppleton Colliery—was almost 3,000,000 gallons up on 1947, and 5,500,000 greater than in 1946. Despite this there was an increase in the amount of water taken from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, in order to meet the demand. 25,700,000 gallons were supplied from this source, an increase of 5,700,000 gallons on 1947. The overall increase in consumption is considered due to the erection of new houses by the Council, and the effect of "privy conversons" carried out during the year.

The quality of the water during the year was satisfactory the analyst's reports on all 10 samples submitted for bacteriological analysis describing the water as either "satisfactory" or "very satisfactory."

Chemical analysis showed the water to be very pure organically, with a pH value of 7.4, a total hardness of 65/66° and permanent hardness of 40/42°.

Chloramine treatment was carried out, and the plant maintained at all times in sound working order.

The estimated population supplied was 18,270 (1934), the supply in all cases being direct to the house from a public water main. The average daily consumption was approx. 20 gallons per head.

New mains were laid to supply 74 houses on the Prospect Estate, and 16 houses in Pemberton Street.

Defective 2½ in. mains in Kenton Row, Blossom Street and Francis Street, were replaced by 400 yards of new 3 in. C.I. main, and 250 yards of 4 in. C.I. main laid to replace a defective 2½ in. main in Barrington Terrace. This work was carried out in connection with the Council's "Privy Conversions" programme, and in addition wherever new connections or services were required for conversions the opportunity was taken to provide means of controlling each individual service.

The undertaking was generally maintained in an efficient condition during the year.

The Moorsley district is supplied by the National Coal Board with spring water which is collected in a reservoir situated at Low Moorsley and pumped from there to a reservoir at High Moorsley to obtain a sufficient head. It is, owing to the fact that it is collected from springs at surface level, very susceptible to contamination and frequent samples are taken by the staff of the Health Department and the Coal Board's chemist, by this means any variation in the

purity are quickly noted and dealt with. During the year under review, however, as a result of improvements carried out towards the end of 1947, and also the more effective method of chlorination in use, it was found that the water was consistently pure, and a wholesome supply was available throughout the year. In addition a spring which is occasionally used by householders in the Moorsley district was frequently sampled and the water was found to be generally quite pure and wholesome.

The Rainton Ward is supplied by water from the Durham County Water Board's mains. This water is much softer than the local water and has given rise to few complaints so far as purity is concerned, although towards the end of the year it was found that certain of the high portions of the Council's Housing Estate at East Rainton were not getting an adequate supply.

A small group of houses at Rainton Bridge obtains its supply from spring water which is piped through to them from a collecting chamber in an adjacent field, and certain of the farms also have independent supplies which are maintained by the National Coal Board. All these supplies were periodically sampled and the results obtained found to be generally satisfactory.

Samples taken for bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle. The examinations are made free of charge, and, therefore, the cost of sampling is considerably reduced, making it possible to take samples from all supplies at least once monthly throughout the area, and more frequently if the supply is suspect. Samples for chemical anaylsis are taken at least every three months, the examination being made by the Council's analyst, W. G. Carey, Esq. The number of samples submitted by the Department during the year for bacteriological examination totalled 61 and in addition 4 samples for chemical examination were also taken. These figures do not include samples taken by the Surveyor's Department from the Council's own water undertaking or samples taken by the National Coal Board's chemist from those portions of the supply for which they are responsible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewers throughout the district, with one exception, all drain to the Glebe Works at Rainton Bridge. This installation is of modern construction having been completed in 1937, and it continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The system was given two Rodent Control maintenance treatments during the year and from the amount of poison bait taken this resulted in the destruction of a large number of rats.

As a result of new housing developments and the privy conversion scheme, it was necessary to lay soil and surface water sewers for 174 houses at the Prospect Estate, 60 houses at Low Moorsley and 16 houses at Pemberton Street, this work being completed during the year. The conversion scheme made it necessary to renew several defective sections of sewer, and entirely new 6 in. and 9 in. sewers were laid in Barrington Terrace and Coalbank Terrace. A length of defective 9 in. surface water sewer was relaid in Railway Street and a new 12 in. surface water sewer laid from the stream at Bog Row to Bedale Street to relieve flooding at this low point on the Peat

Carr Estate. Part of the 6 in. sewer in York Crescent was relaid and the outfall from this estate was relaid for some 30 yards from the junction with the main outfall. Part of the sewer where it crosses the stream was relaid in cast iron pipes. Particulars and estimates for the relaying of the Low Downs outfall sewer were submitted to the Ministry for approval and this work was put in hand towards the end of 1948.

During the year under review it was necessary to serve 29 informal notices with respect to defects in house drainage and these were all remedied more or less promptly. In one case it was necessary to follow up the informal notice by a Statutory Notice. It was also necessary to serve 18 informal notices in respect of defects in water-closets and to follow these up by 5 Statutory Notices and these had all been complied with at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1948 the numbers of each type of convenience in use in the district were as follows:—

Water closets	4527
Ash closets	934
Ash pit privies	17

301 ash-closets were converted into water-closets, and 27 ash-closets were demolished under Slum Clearance schemes in conjunction with the houses which they served. Of the conversion carried out, 268 were done by the Council's contractors, and 33 were carried out by owners, generally owner-occupiers, to whom a grant of £10 was made by the Council towards the cost, which, in the majority of cases exceeded £25 per conversion. The cost of conversions carried out direct by the Council will not, it is anticipated, exceed £18, one half of which amount will be recovered from the owners.

The majority of conversions were carried out at properties owned by the National Coal Board, which will make it possible for work to proceed with the making up of streets and footpaths. In fact the Coal Board have already carried out some work of this nature in conjunction with the conversions.

Further sections of the scheme were in course of preparation before the end of the year, it being decided to carry out a further section of 400 conversions, which, when completed, will practically eliminate the ash-closets in the area, the few left being in isolated places remote from the sewer, or attached to houses which will be demolished in the near future under Slum Clearance action.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This work is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, 5 motor lorries and 15 men being employed for the purpose, an additional lorry being availabe for use when necessity arises. All the vehicles in use are in good mechanical condition, an order for three 10 cubic yard Karrier C.K.3 vehicles having been completed early in the year, and a 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam was delivered during the summer. The remaining two vehicles are both 7 cubic yard, one being a Karrier Bantam, and the

other a Bedford, and with the influx of new vehicles it was possible to take them off the road and subject them to complete overhaul. In addition to our own staff, it was also found necessary to hire a horse and cart, which is engaged on an average 21 hours a week to deal with certain isolated or inaccessible premises which it would not be possible to cleanse with a motor vehicle.

Repairs are carried out at the Depot by the Council's mechanic, and as only one man is employed on the work, and he was also driver of the fever ambulance, and responsible for the general supervision and maintenance of the depot, the amount of work done was noteworthy, as it included bodywork and re-painting, it being found impossible to get this type of work done by outside firms in reasonable time. The taking over of the fever ambulance under the National Health Service has considerably eased the position.

All the refuse is disposed of by tipping, which is controlled where the situation and the supply of soil available made this possible. The tips are situated at the Hazard Colliery, Bulwells, the Gill, and the Brickies, Lyons Colliery, the latter tip being commenced during the year. A large percentage of the refuse is, however, utilised by farmers for reclaiming land, and making good damage caused by Colliery subsidence, and this demand is likely to continue in the future, although the refuse has now little manurial value.

Considerable tipping space is still available at the tips now in use, and further tips are readily available when needed. The tips are regularly inspected for rat infestation and are systematically treated to keep down vermin, either by poison baits or gassing. Every effort is made to tip in shallow layers to obviate the risk from fire, and little trouble was experienced in this respect during the year, but, as in previous years, the greatest nuisance experienced on the tips was the promiscuous dumping of refuse of all kinds by unauthorised persons, generally builders, and despite warning notices, this practice is prevalent, and difficult to check.

Despite difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies of suitable ash-bins, the scheme for the renewal of ash-bins, which came into being in 1936, was continued during 1948, 144 ash-bins being supplied to householders in the area during the year, these being sold at 16s. 0d. each, which, whilst still being below the cost of a similar article in the shops, allows a small margin of profit to the Council to cover handling and administrative expenses. It is hoped, as conversions proceed, to obtain the abolition of all ash-pits and ash-closets in the area, and, when this stage is reached, it should be possible to make the provision of ash-bins a rate charge, and the renewal of the defective bin would then be automatic.

The number of premises which were being dealt with by the scavenging department at the end of 1948 was 5,787 and the approximate average cost per house per annum for the service was £1.307. The rapid progress in building Council houses has thrown a considerable amount of additional work on the service, and this has been dealt with without further increase in staff or plant, unfortunately, however, the layout of the modern Council housing site has generally resulted in bins having to be carried a considerably increased distance, and this, coupled with the necessity for more frequent visits during the winter months, may make additions to the service neces-

sary. In the year under review, however, as labour and overhead charges remained more or less stationary, it was possible to maintain scavenging costs, despite the purchase of new vehicles, at a very reasonable figure.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

One vehicle was solely devoted to this work, this being implemented by a driver and three youths, one of the latter assisting with collection, and the two others sorting and packing materials. A separate collection was made from houses and shops, and the collections were not confined to materials defined by Government Orders, but, e.g., waste tins were collected, and formed a very useful part of the revenue from the scheme.

It will be appreciated that with only one vehicle employed, it was not always possible to get round the number of premises to be dealt with within a reasonable period. The amount of salvage collected from the average dwelling-house is generally very small, but naturally householders do not like to store materials of this nature on their premises, and collections have to be frequent, or material is wasted. School children have been very helpful with collections, but, despite the fact that the children were rewarded by saving stamps to the value of 3/- for every cwt. of paper collected, some schools are not displaying the interest in the scheme which was evident during the wartime years.

All salvaged material is sold in the best available markets, and during 1948 £681 14s. 10d. was realised from the sale of materials, the total operational cost for the collection and disposal of these being £689 6s. 6d., showing a debit of £7 11s. 8d. on the year's working. This compares with an income of £564 18s. 10d., and an operational cost of £572 7s. 1d., with a subsequent debit of £7 8s. 3d., for 1947.

Income from the various sources is shown on the table hereunder :—

	£	s.	d.
From sale of paper and cardboard ...	454	12	5½
From sale of rags and matting	34	19	7
From sale of scrap metal and tins ...	104	3	3
From sale of bottles and jars ...	56	11	4
From sale of bones	12	15	10½
From sale of non-ferrous metals ...	1	8	6
Board of Trade bonus received ...	17	4	0
	£681	14	10

It will be noted that included above is the sum of £17 4s. 0d. Bonus. This is the bonus awarded by the Board of Trade in respect of increased waste paper collections, and in 1947 this amounted to £13 5s. 3d., as the 1948 award is made on the 1947 collections, the great increase in waste paper collections will be appreciated.

Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector s Department during the year 1948.

I. Public Health Acts.	Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses and Schools — Foul Conditions	4	...	4
Dw'ling-houses and Schools — Structural Def'ts	354	...	330
Dw'ling-houses and Schools — Overcrowding	2	...	2
Lodging-houses	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	7	...	7
Cowsheds	25	...	25
Bakehouses	2	...	2
Slaughter houses	1	...	1
Ashpits and Privies ...	45	284	313
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	5	...	5
Water Closets	18	...	5
Defective Yard Paving ...	12	...	12
House Drainage — Defective Traps	1	...	1
House Drainage — No disconnection from sewers	...	...	...
House Drainage — Other Faults	29	1	27
Water Supply	9	...	9
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...
Other Nuisances (Pigsties and animals improperly kept)	8	...	8
Defective Spouts	24	...	16
Provision of Dust Bins ...	144	...	144
Provision of Scullery Sinks ...	3	...	3
Totals	693	285	914

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	65	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	15	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	90 Milk 2 Ice Cr	For advisory purposes only
Samples found Adulterated	...	
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	129	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	128	84 houses treated for beetles etc.
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year	123	
Number of such Houses occupied during year	123	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets		
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	301	27 Ash-closets demolished
Total number of Water-closets in District	4527	
Total number of Ash-closets in District...	934	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	17	

Housing.

During 1948, largely as a result of the establishment of a direct labour building staff, good progress was made towards the provision of new houses, 123 houses being erected and completed during the year, and an additional number were in an advanced state of construction. Further extensions of the housing schemes were considered and type plans and layouts adopted for an ambitious building programme for 1949.

With the rapid progress in providing new houses, and the inevitable difficulties met with in satisfactorily allocating the trickle of those becoming ready for occupation, it became apparent towards the end of 1948 that a revision of the housing applications was desirable, with a view to pruning the lists, and eliminating applicants who no longer required houses, or were, for some reason, now ineligible. Therefore, early in 1949, all applicants were personally interviewed, and a true picture of the current housing needs obtained.

This was presented in a report by the Clerk of the Council in May, 1949, but, in order to give a realistic view of the housing position in the area, these figures have been utilised for the present report.

The investigation disclosed the following facts:—

Number of applications	896

Which could be divided into the undermentioned categories, viz:—

(a) Sub-tenants living in	276
(b) Occupying slum and sub-standard houses ...	311
(c) Suitably housed at present	309

It is therefore apparent that classes (a) and (b) represent applicants who have immediate need for alternative accommodation but class (b) would be considerably increased if a comprehensive slum clearance programme was put in hand, as there are many other persons occupying this type of property who have not made application for a house, but who would have to be rehoused. Class (c) have no immediate need, and if and when they are re-housed, the accommodation they leave will be available for another tenant.

Actual housing needs therefore seem to be:—

(a) Sub-tenants living in	276
(b) Slum Clearance requirements	422
(c) Provision for individual unfit houses, Closing Orders, etc.	82
Total	780 houses

It is felt that this figure not only represents current need, but should provide for any contingencies which may arise for some years, especially if the fullest use is made of accommodation already available in the district. This could best be done by building smaller

houses to accommodate aged couples who have perforce at present to occupy houses too large for their needs, and also by the arrangement or enforcement of exchanges between tenants who are occupying houses too small for their families, and others who are occupying large houses, but have small families. This would also make available a pool of the older, cheaper, type of house available for letting to the lower income groups, who display an understandable reluctance to shoulder the burden of the rent of the current type of house. Rentals will present a problem in the future especially if wages fall, and unemployment increases. We find already, despite high wages, and family allowances and despite also the very great amenities and improved environment provided by the modern house, that many new tenants, who are well able to afford the rent, seize the first opportunity to exchange into a cheaper house, often into the "free" colliery house, with its complete lack of modern conveniences. For the same reason also, applicants display reluctance to pay rents for a house which is larger than their immediate requirements, and the A2 house is therefore in much greater demand than the A3, although one important factor governing this is that the majority of applicants rarely have sufficient effects and floor coverings to furnish these houses.

It has been possible during the year to abate some cases of overcrowding, and it is possible to say that true overcrowding is on the decrease, but the problem, which is daily growing in magnitude, is created by the marriage of young couples who go to live with one or other of their parents. This is the cause of most of the overcrowding, particularly in the Council's housing schemes, and also, in many cases, results in undue wear and tear of the property, which will, in due course, necessitate expensive repairs.

At the end of the year there were still a good number of families living in bad conditions in houses which were subject to Slum Clearance action before the war. Some of these, it must be admitted, are undesirable tenants for whom special provision will have to be made. Good progress was made with the Moorsley Compulsory Purchase Area, however, the remaining tenants being re-housed, and the houses demolished with a view to early re-development on the site.

Owing to the current housing position, there is a great demand for every slum clearance house, however bad its condition, so soon as it becomes empty, and the Department is inundated with requests from young couples for permission to take over the occupation, and in some cases applicants have even expressed their willingness to buy the property, and do their best to re-condition it. All these applications are dealt with by the Committee on their merits, but during the year it was generally decided to have the houses demolished as soon as possible to prevent occupation by squatters. Some trouble was experienced in this direction, but was promptly dealt with.

Despite obvious difficulties, the Council decided to deal with a good number of sub-standard houses during 1948, by the making of Demolition Orders. This decision was not made with the intention of immediately re-housing the tenants and demolishing the property, but owing to the necessity of having some control over the future use of this type of property when it did become vacant, as it was

found that some owners were seizing the opportunity presented by vacant possession to dispose of sub-standard, worn out houses at exorbitant prices, generally to young couples in dire need of accommodation, who will, in the course of the next year or two, lose their investment. Demolition Orders were made with regard to 65 houses.

A large number of houses were systematically inspected and informal notices served under the Public Health or Housing Acts requiring necessary repairs, and it was necessary in 14 cases to follow these up with statutory notices, owners carrying out the work in 11 cases, and in the remaining 3 houses the Council carried out the work in default of the owner under Sec. 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1948.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	338
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	705
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	65
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	110
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	65
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	287

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	168

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	13

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 10

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 3

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 41

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 65

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV — Overcrowding:

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 106

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 182

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 562

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 123

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 515

(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —

The Shops Act.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Shops Acts, and shop premises throughout the district are frequently inspected, visits for this purpose generally coinciding with visits for the inspection of food stuffs.

The district has a large proportion of small shops with house attached in which the proprietor lives, with a small number of assistants, in many cases only one, employed on the premises, and therefore little difficulty is experienced regarding sanitary accommodation, heating, washing facilities and other amenities for the well being of persons engaged in or about the premises. Whilst, however, some of the larger shops have washing facilities a number still have to install means of providing hot water for this purpose, and steps are being taken to obtain this.

No infringement of the Orders governing closing hours, and, therefore, working hours of the assistants were observed during the year nor were any complaints received with respect to this. Shopkeepers have more or less adopted as standard the curtailed hours made necessary in war-time and the still prevalent short supply of goods and labour difficulties have caused the majority of shopkeepers to adopt even shorter opening hours than those prescribed by the Orders. This, of course, operates to the benefit of the assistants, but one sometimes wonders whether the convenience of the shopping public is not becoming a matter of secondary importance.

It was necessary during the year to serve 11 informal notices requiring improvements in sanitary accommodation, etc., at shop premises. These were all complied with.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Camping Sites.

The district has been fortunate for many years in being clear of tents, vans and sheds used for dwelling purposes nor are there any sites habitually used for camping.

Certain sites were from time to time utilised by showmen as fairgrounds and such sites were supervised during the time of their occupation, and arrangements made for scavenging, etc. No complaints arose from the use of the land for this purpose and the sites were always left tidy and in a sanitary condition.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The district possesses no public or privately owned swimming baths although there is a great demand for such an amenity, and it was hoped before the war to make some progress with the provision of a swimming bath which could also be used as a public hall. The lack of a swimming pool and the prevailing fine weather which was experienced in the summer months led to the occasional and unsupervised use of the pool at Lyons Colliery which was at one time maintained by the local Boys' Club. Samples of water taken from the pool, however, indicated that unless it was cleansed and properly maintained its use for this purpose should be prohibited. ,

Schools.

Schools throughout the area were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition, and the sanitary conditions found when inspections were carried out were of a very high standard. It was, however, necessary in the case of one Infants' School to draw attention to certain defects in the sanitary accommodation and these were remedied. Apart from this the only trouble experienced was the occasional obstruction of drains brought about by the accumulation of fats from the school kitchens, the conditions generally being due to neglect by the caretaker of the periodical cleansing of the grease trap gullies. It was not necessary during the year to close any school owing to the incidence of infectious diseases and the department is indebted to teachers for their co-operation at all times when inquiries regarding infectious diseases and scabies have been necessary.

Public Houses, Hall and Cinemas.

These premises were systematically inspected during 1948 at frequent intervals, and, as is necessary in the majority of cases, certificates as to the sanitary conditions found were issued for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions.

The premises have generally been maintained in a good state of repair and with one or two exceptions the conditions found were generally satisfactory.

Food Inspection.

All food shops in the area are inspected regularly and systematically and it was necessary in the course of routine inspections to deal with a large amount of varied foodstuffs during the year under review. Whilst the amount of tinned foods coming into the shops has diminished considerably it was found that a very large proportion of condemned tinned food was lost due to damage in transit owing to rough handling and inadequate packing, but a steady improvement is observed in packing, and losses due to this cause are becoming less frequent. It was, however, necessary to condemn as unfit for human consumption a large quantity of tinned foodstuffs, bacon, butter and other perishable commodities. Every effort is made to prevent waste, and in some cases it was possible by arrangement with the local Food Office to divert commodities to bakehouses or canteens to ensure immediate use.

Slaughter houses are still licensed annually and the number on the register at the end of 1948 was 15. The number of slaughtermen holding licenses from this authority was 44. Since 1940, however, when centralised slaughtering was imposed, the local slaughter houses have fallen into disuse and, therefore, apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs which were killed on licence by farmers or smallholders for their own consumption, and isolated cases of casualties which had to be slaughtered immediately, no food animals were slaughtered in the district. The slaughter houses are, however, still regularly inspected and generally maintained in a cleanly condition. Centralised slaughtering has no doubt come to stay and some years ago these conditions would have received my whole hearted

support, but it cannot be denied that the meat sent into the district nowadays does not compare favourably with that put out by the private butcher before the war. No doubt the hasty removal of cattle from farm to market and thence to slaughter houses, and slaughtering without preliminary resting and hungering is not conducive to good quality meat, and there is no doubt also the cause of much of the wastage of meat at the present time is due to hasty and inefficient dressing of carcases, particularly lambs and sheep, and bone taint in beef is far too prevalent. The arrangements for transporting the meat also, from the central slaughter house to the shops are far from ideal although as a result of complaints made by the Council in this respect some improvement was made.

The carcases of the following food animals were examined during the year and found to be sound, namely:—

69 pigs.

Particulars of other foodstuffs condemned are as follows:—

326 lbs. English beef; 164 lbs. imported beef; 285 lbs. cooked beef; 219 lbs. bacon; ½ lb. luncheon sausage; 38 lbs. butter; 2 lbs. cheese; 5-12 oz. tins meat; 48-12 oz. tins meat lunch; 11-12 oz. tins veal loaf; 11-12 oz. tins minced beef loaf with cereals; 5-11½ oz. tins pork luncheon meat; 1-7 lb. tin tongue; 4-6 lb. tins tongue; 24-1 lb. tins stewed steak; 1-27 oz. tin skinless sausage; 3-2½ lb. tins pork sausage; 4-1 lb. tins meat & vegetable; 4-size 2 tins peas; 9-1 lb. 4 oz. tins peas; 14-1 lb. 3 oz. tins peas; 19-16 oz. tins peas; 9-1 lb. 14 oz. tins beans; 5-16½ oz. tins beans; 7-1 lb. tins beans; 41-1 lb. tins Irish Stew; 16-1 lb. tins vegetable soup; 9-1 lb. tins soup; 3-4½ oz. tins vegetable soup; 5-20 oz. tins potatoes; 8-1 lb. 12 oz. tins diced carrots; 3-1 lb. 3 oz. tins beetroot; 3-16 oz. tins spaghetti; 7-5½ oz. tins potted meat; 11-4 oz. tins pate de foie; 19-6 lb. 6 oz. tins tomatoes; 7-size 2 tins tomatoes; 9-2 lb. 3 oz. tins tomatoes; 14-1 lb. 12 oz. tins tomatoes; 4 tins tomato cream; 6-28 oz. tins tomato juice; 2-20 oz. tins tomato juice; 1-6 lb. tin apples; 3-1 lb. 3 oz. tins rhubarb; 23-1 lb. 4 oz. tins grapefruit; 1-1 lb. 14 oz. tin pineapple; 3-1 lb. 14 oz. tins pears; 2-2½ lb. tins fruit cocktail; 3-2½ lb. tins fruit salad; 14-1 lb. 14 oz. tins fruit salad; 6-1 lb. 14 oz. tins grapes; 7-1 lb. 13 oz. tins peaches; 3-1 lb. 14 oz. tins peaches; 8-17 oz. tins apple puree; 5-20 oz. tins orange juice; 4-10½ oz. tins date pudding; 7-10½ oz. tins treacle pudding; 15-2 pt. tins evaporated milk; 47-1⅞ pts. evaporated milk; 258-14½ oz. tins evaporated milk; 6-13 oz. tins evaporated milk; 1 tin skimmed milk; 10-2 pt. tins full cream milk; 2-1 lb. tins Grade 1 salmon; 9-1 lb. tins Grade 3 salmon; 7-4 oz. tins crawfish; 7-15 oz. tins pilchards; 3-3¾ oz. tins sardines; 7-15 oz. tins marinated mussels; 15-14 oz. tins mussels; 1-2 lb. tin plum jam; 10-1 lb. jars jam; 91 lbs. rolled oats; 75 lbs. semolina; 12 lbs. oatmeal; 4 gross and 4 pkts. ryvita; 1-8 oz. packet cereal flakes; 8-5 oz. packets dried egg; 8 doz. imported eggs; 3 doz. packets malt cup; 3 doz. -8 oz. packets dessert mould; 15 packets junket; 7 packets rusks; 1 fruit loaf; 26 lbs. dried peaches; 2 lbs. glace cachous; 20 lbs. fish cakes.

Milk and Dairies.

During the year under review all cow sheds and dairies were subject to routine inspections at frequent intervals and periodical samples of milk were taken from producers and roundsmen of the

Milk Pool and submitted for bacteriological examination. Ninety samples were taken in this way, the results being generally satisfactory, and indicating that the majority of the farmers in the district are capable of consistently producing milk to the accredited standard.

The number of milk producers on the register at the end of 1948 was 12, the distribution of the milk was in the hands of the Dairymen's Pool and this organisation and the Co-operative Societies, the latter dealing entirely in pasteurised milk, were the only retailers in the area. Prior to the formation of the Pool the number of retailers on the register was 18.

The Dairymen's Association operate a modern processing plant at Houghton-le-Spring where milk, most of it local, is pasteurised, bottled and stored under ideal conditions. Therefore, although a small amount of tuberculin tested milk, etc., is distributed, most of the milk now sold by retail in the area is pasteurised. The local Co-operative Society have a modern milk depot with cold chamber in the Hetton Downs area and bottled milk is stored here overnight before delivery. There is also a small secondary depot at Easington Lane which is not equipped with cold storage, but is reasonably satisfactory. All milk retailed in the district during the year was delivered in bottles and although occasional complaints regarding dirty bottles had to be investigated and dealt with the position was generally satisfactory.

The farmers in the district have, during recent years, displayed an increasing interest in milk production and the majority of producers have increased the size and quality of their herds, and an increasing number also make use of modern milking machines. We have, however, in the Urban District a number of small producers who, whilst they have neither outstanding buildings nor elaborate equipment, are able to consistently produce milk which is well above the standard prescribed for the highest grades, in fact the general indication is that a good standard of dairy technique and cleanliness is being maintained. Some improvements to byres were carried out during the year and even the smallest byres now have automatic drinking bowls installed for the cattle.

All samples are sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle where they are examined free of charge. Samples are taken for purely advisory purposes and no prosecutions were undertaken with regard to the results, in fact none were necessary. Occasional sub-standard results do arise due to atmospheric conditions or carelessness on the part of operatives, and when any adverse result was reported the matter was investigated with a view to ascertaining the cause of the trouble, this being followed up with further samples to check results.

Ice Cream.

The Urban District has only three manufacturers of this commodity, two being at Easington Lane and one at East Rainton. All three work under hygienic conditions with modern plant, and during the year arrangements were made to adapt their installations to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations, in one case this necessitating

a considerable enlargement of the premises. They are regularly sampled and the results obtained have been consistently satisfactory. A large number of confectioners and general shops have installed cabinets for the storage of pre-packed or bulk ice cream manufactured outside the district, and these are all registered as retailers, and no trouble has been experienced with their commodity. It is very difficult, however, to supervise the activities of the itinerant vendors of ice cream manufactured outside the district, who patrol the area in motor vans. It is virtually impossible to obtain samples of the ice cream they are retailing, and apart from the health aspect these vendors also constitute a serious nuisance as they persistently sound motor horns, whistles, etc., in back streets which is highly undesirable in a district such as this, where a large proportion of the community is employed in the mines and have perforce to take their rest during the day.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories, workshops and work places were regularly inspected with a view to ensuring that they complied with the main Act and the various Orders made thereunder. In a few isolated cases it was necessary to draw attention to the need for cleansing, lime washing, ventilation facilities, or the drainage of floors, and in five cases owners were asked to provide additional closet accommodation when this was insufficient or not adequately separated for the sexes, and in two cases unsatisfactory ash-closets were abolished and water closets provided. The following tables give particulars of inspections carried out by the Department in this respect and the results thereof.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecuted Occupiers
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	39	15	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	31	33	9	...
(b) Others	2	2	...	...
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	5	...
Total	55	79	29	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	12	12	...	...
Overcrowding (S2)	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	2	2	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	2	2	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	3	3	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):				
Insufficient	5	5	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Homework)	...	...	...	...
Total	29	29	...	...

Bakehouses.

At the end of 1948 there were seven retail bakehouses established in the urban area. Very little bread is baked in the district nowadays, the majority of retailers being supplied by factory bakehouses operating outside the area. The premises were periodically inspected and it was found that a generally satisfactory standard of cleanliness was being maintained.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin.

During 1948 it was necessary to take action for the eradication of bed bugs and other vermin in the undermentioned premises.

(a) Council Houses	63
(b) Private Houses	19

These figures show a decrease on those for the previous year and generally speaking it is gratifying to note that infestation with vermin is becoming increasingly rare. Infestation in the majority of cases was with beetles, many of the premises having been treated before, but requiring periodical re-treatment, as when this pest becomes established in old houses complete clearance is uncommon, and re-infestation occurs with the seasonal changes. Beetles were successfully dealt with by treatment with a powder which contained D.D.T. in combination with pyrethrum.

Infestation by bed bugs was dealt with by spraying with an approved insecticide, the premises affected being treated on three occasions, firstly by fumigation to eliminate as far as possible surface vermin, this making the premises reasonably fit for householders or workmen to proceed with stripping the walls (in one or two cases it was necessary to remove skirtings, architraves, picture rails, etc.), the second treatment was given to kill vermin which had subsequently incubated and a final treatment to ensure positive eradication. Even after this course, which is generally spread over three weeks, householders are expected to make every effort to prevent re-infestation as there is no certainty that the premises are cleared, especially when operations are carried out in cold weather when the pests are dormant and hidden deep in crevices in the wall.

Rodent Control.

During the year under review the Health Department continued with the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Order, so far as dwelling houses, business premises and refuse tips were concerned, your Surveyor's Department dealing with the treatment of the sewers. 82 complaints of rat and mice infestation were investigated and dealt with, in some cases it was necessary to carry out extensive work in this connection. No charge was made to householders for treatment carried out, but a charge was made for any work executed at business premises. A large part of the cost of the scheme was recovered by Government Grant, which was made with the approval of the Ministry of Food. The Council's own premises, refuse tips, etc., were systematically treated when necessary, the cost of this work falling upon the local authority.

The poisons generally in use are zinc phosphide, arsenic, and red squills, the latter being used where live stock is kept, as should this poison be accidently taken by domestic animals, no lasting harmful effect should result. The Council is covered by insurance against any claims for accident and the Company concerned very thoroughly investigated the methods used before undertaking the risk, but as yet no claim has had to be met.

It is frequently necessary also to resort to trapping, particularly where mice are concerned and very good results have been obtained by the use of sticky bait for this purpose. When weather conditions and the site made it possible, gassing was carried out with "Cymag" gas, particularly on the refuse tips, where this method proved very effective.

Colliery Spoil Heaps.

The Health Department devoted considerable time to the inspection of Colliery spoil heaps in the district with a view to the abatement of the nuisance arising from fumes where heaps were burning. These fumes, apart from affecting public health, do much damage to property, paintwork being spoilt and zinc used in constructional work becoming corroded.

There are three active pit heaps in the Urban area, these being situated at Eppleton Colliery, Elemore Colliery, and at Nicholson's pit, East Rainton, the latter heap being used in connection with the by-product works on this site. The heap at Eppleton has been kept fairly well under control by the application of water, but the position here is, that apart from the mere abatement of the nuisance this heap is becoming of such a size, and is moreover situated overhanging a good number of dwelling houses in the Hetton Downs Ward, that serious consideration should be given to finding another site for the refuse or preferably to follow continental methods and leave this below ground. It would appear that the time is fast approaching when no further tipping will be available on this site and an alternative means of disposal will have to be found. The heap at Elemore Colliery gives rise to some nuisance, and the Department have had difficulty in obtaining a full and proper application of the methods installed for controlling the fire here. Some trouble was also experienced with the dry cleaner at this colliery, which, owing to its condition was giving rise to considerable nuisance from dust in dwelling houses situated within a wide radius of the colliery. There was some delay in the abatement of the nuisance owing to the difficulty of obtaining replacement parts, but the dry cleaner was fully overhauled and the defective parts renewed, and little trouble has been experienced since. Nicholson's pit heap has also given rise to complaints regarding fire, but an adequate supply of water and an efficient pumping installation is now in use here. The Department is very much indebted to Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Health, for the very kind assistance and the useful technical advice which he has given with regard to this problem.

Breretons, Ltd., Houghton